

REMARKS

The Examiner has required an election in the present application between:

Species A, illustrated in Fig(s). 1 and 2;

Species B, illustrated in Fig(s). 3;

Species C, illustrated in Fig(s). 4;

Species D, illustrated in Fig(s). 5 and 6; and

Species E, illustrated in Fig(s). 7.

In reply to the Examiner's indication that Applicant must elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits, and without agreeing with the Examiner's characterization of the claimed subject matter, Applicant hereby elects Species D, illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6. Claims 1, 5, and 6 are readable on Species D. Claim 1 is generic, such that claims 2, 3, and 4 are subject to possible rejoinder. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications for non-elected subject matter.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

D. Richard Anderson, #40,439

DRA/jdm  
1163-0479P

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000